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From Thursday December 19. to Monday December 23. 1678.

At the Court at *WHITEHALL*,

This Sixth day of *December*, 1678.

Present,

The Kings Most Excellent Majesty,

And the Lords of His most Honorable Privy Council.

WHereas His Majesty and this Board are Informed of the Bold and Open Repair made to several places, and especially to Her Majesties Chappel at *Somerset-House*, and the Houses of Foreign Ambassadors, Agents, and other Publick Ministers, for the hearing of Mass, and other Worship and Service of the *Romish Church*; And that the said Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers, do Permit and Suffer both daily Masses to be said, and other Worship and Service to be performed in their Houses in a Publick manner, by *English*, *Scottish*, and *Irish* Priests, and also Sermons in *English* to be Preached in their said Houses and Chappels, which the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom do expresly forbid His Subjects to frequent or do; His Majesty taking the same into serious Consideration, and being sensible thereof, as a matter highly tending to the Violation of the Laws of the Realm, and the Scandal of Religion and Government, and breach of good Order, and in His Princely Wisdom weighing the Consequence thereof, is Resolved to take strict Order for the Stopping this Evil before it spread any further.

His Majesty therefore, by the Advice of His Council, doth hereby forbid any of His said Subjects hereafter to offend in the like kind, at their utmost perils; And straitly Commands, That no others presume to resort to Her Majesties Chappel, but such as are Her Majesties Allowed Servants. And to the end this Provision and Order may be more effectual, His Majesty doth Command, That forasmuch as concerneth the Repair to the Houses of Foreign Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers, at the time of Mass, or other *Romish* Worship or Service, some Messengers of the Chamber, or other Officers or Persons fit for that Service, be appointed to watch at the several Passages to their Houses, and without entring into the said Houses, or invading the Freedom and Priviledges belonging unto them, observe such persons as go thither at such times, without Stopping or Questioning any as they go thither; but at their coming from thence, they are to apprehend and bring the said persons before some Justice, or Justices of the Peace, to have the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy tendered to them; and such as they cannot apprehend, to bring their Names to this Board. And that the Ambassadors and other Foreign Ministers may have no cause to complain for this Proceeding, as if there were any intention to wrong or disrespect them, His Majesty doth likewise Order, for the preventing of any such mistaking and sinister interpretation, That His Principal Secretaries of State, (according unto His Majesties expres Commands now given unto them) should be hereby authorized and required forthwith to certifie the said Ambassadors, Agents, and other Foreign Ministers, His Majesties Pleasure concerning the same. And that as His Majesty is careful not to have any of the just Priviledges and Immunities of the said Ambassadors, Agents, or Ministers, to be in any degree infringed or violated, so in the aforesaid Particulars of permitting Masses or other Service to be said by any of the said Priests, or Sermons to be preached in *English* in their Houses or Chappels (things not heard of in the Times of His Majesties Predecessors) or in suffering His Subjects to resort unto them, His Majesty is no less careful of preserving His Laws, and continuing His Subjects in their obedience to the same. And doth therefore expect the said Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers compliance accordingly. And hereof His Majesty thinks fit that Notice shall be first given to the said Publick Ministers (the rather to testifie His respects unto them) before the stricter Course His Majesty hath resolved be taken with His own Subjects, by a vigorous Prosecution and Infliction of Penalties and Punishments for the Preventing and Repressing the like hereafter.

And it is likewise Ordered, That the Messengers of the Chamber, or others to be employed in the Service before specified, shall be appointed, and receive their Charge from the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, the Lord Bishop of *London*, and the said Secretaries, or some of them, who are to take special care to see this put in due and effectual Execution.

THOMAS DOLMAN.

Whitehall, Decemb. 21. His Majesty has been pleased to cause His Royal Proclamation to be issued, For Disarming and Securing of Popish Recusants.

CHARLES R.

THE Kings Most Excellent Majesty (upon the Humble Desire of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled) for the Prevention of the present Dangers threatning His Majesties Sacred Person and Government, from the Pernicious Plots and Contrivances of Popish Persons universally spread over this His Majesties Kingdom, doth (by this His Royal Proclamation) strictly Charge and Command all Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, and other Magistrates within their respective Counties, Cities and Places in England *and* Wales, *with all Speed and Diligence to Apprehend, Disarm, and Secure all Popish Recusants, and all others who are or shall be justly suspected to be Papists, and them to Require to enter into Recognizances with Sufficient Sureties to keep the Peace, and to be of the Good Behaviour, and to return such Recognizances to the next General Sessions of the Peace for their respective Limits, where they are to be proceeded against according to Law. And in case they shall not give such Recognizances, to Commit the Refusers to the Common Gaol, where they are to remain till the next General Sessions of the Peace (unless they shall in the mean time enter into such Recognizances with Sureties as aforesaid) where they are likewise to be Proceeded against according to Law.*

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall*, the Twentieth day of *December*, 1678. In the Thirtieth year of Our Reign.

Dantzick, Dec. 10. The Letters we receive from *Coningsberg* speak of the apprehensions People there were in, upon the News they had that the *Suedes* had passed the *Memel* at *Tilse*, the *Brandenburgh* Troops that were there under the command of Major General *Hobendorff* retiring upon their approach. The *Suedes* have likewise taken the Castle of *Rugert*, though with the loss of 200 men. The *Polish* Forces raised for the service of *Sueden*, do not yet stir.

Copenhagen, Dec. 17. On Wednesday last our King safely returned hither from *Wismar*, well satisfied with the Interview he hath had with the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and the effects of it. We are told that the Duke of *Hesse Homburg* hath offered the King his service the next Campagne, if the War continue, as in all appearance it will in these Northern Parts. We have nothing new from *Schonen*: and the last advices we had from *Stockholme*, only said, that they were labouring hard to put their Fleet to Sea early in the Spring.

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